Setting up of coach factory

523. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient number of coaches are produced in the country to meet the demand;

(b) if not, whether is it proposed to set up a coach factory to augment the production of coaches to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The coach manufacturing capacity available both in the Railway's own production units as also in the Public/Private Sector units is adequate to meet the Railway's current requirements. To meet the anticipated increase in requirement of coaches, works have been sanctioned for expansion of the existing capacities of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and Rail Coach Factory (RCF). The issue of further augmentation of manufacturing capacity, in the country, is presently under examination.

Jammu-Srinagar rail link

524. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to launch direct rail link to Srinagar from Jammu;

(b) whether Government apprehends any security threats to the Jammu-Srinagar rail link in view of large number of sensitive bridges and tunnels involved in the link; and

(c) if so, the details of any proposal to minimize the security risks as above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railways have planned to launch direct rail link to Srinagar from Jammu by 2008-09.